

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163878

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 4434 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA
DATED 12 JULY 1974:

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4434

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: TURKISH OPIUM BAN RESCISSION

REF: GENEVA 4207

1. SUMMARY: IN CALL ON TURKISH AMBASSADOR KIRCA JULY 11,
INCB PRESIDENT REUTER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TERMS IN WHICH
GOT DECIDED LIFT OPIUM BAN PUT TURKEY IN WORST POSSIBLE
POSITION SINCE COULD AGAIN BECOME CENTER OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC. AS
FIRST STEP GOT SHOULD HAVE DECIDED ON CONTROL MEASURES AND
ESTABLISHED CONTROL APPARATUS, AND NO SOWING SHOULD
HAVE BEEN ENVISAGED UNTIL THIS WAS DONE AND EVEN THEN IN
ONE PROVINCE ONLY AND ON LIMITED SCALE FOR PURPOSE TESTING
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CONTROLS BEFORE MORE EXTENSIVE CULTIVATION PERMITTED.

KIRCA OFFERED RECOMMEND IN REUTER'S NAME THAT GOT REDUCE CULTIVATION AREA TO MAXIMUM WITHIN SEVEN PROVINCES IN WHICH PRODUCTION ALREADY AUTHORIZED. GOT HAS REQUESTED UNFDAC/DND TO SEND CONTROL EXPERT TO TURKEY AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC SPECIALIST MANBY WILL PROCEED THERE ON EXPLORATORY MISSION FIRST HALF OF AUGUST. MICUTA (DND) HAS REQUESTED THAT USG EXPERT ON CONTROL SITUATION TURKEY SHOULD COME GENEVA FOR PURPOSE PROVIDING INFORMAL BRIEFING PRIOR MANBY'S DEPARTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE DEVELOPMENTS UN SIDE IN WAKE OF GOT'S DECISION LIFT OPIUM BAN#

3. INCB SECRETARY DITTERT TELEPHONED TURKISH MISSION (ARIM) JULY 3 AND EXPRESSED BOARD'S DEEP DISMAY AND REGRET AT GOT'S DECISION. HE ALSO ASKED THAT GOT PROVIDE FULL INFORMATION TO BOARD, REFERRED TO TURKEY'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER NARCOTICS TREATIES AND MAKE APPOINTMENT FOR BOARD PRESIDENT REUTER TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR KIRCA.

4. RUETER, ACCOMPANIED BY DITTERT, SAW KIRCA LATE AFTER-NOON JULY 11. DITTERT HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON DEMARCHE.

5. REUTER SAID HE HAD COME OFFICIALLY TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS AND CONCERNS ON OPIUM BAN'S RESCISSION. THESE VIEWS ACCORDED POLICY CONSISTENTLY ADOPTED BY INCB BUT DID NOT STEM FROMBOARD DECISION WHICH COULD ONLY BE TAKEN AT BOARD SESSION.

6. BOARD HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL INFO FROM TURKISH GOVT. HOWEVER, GENERAL INFO AVAILABLE TO BOARD WAS SUFFICIENT FOR REUTER CONCLUDE THAT TURKEY HAS PUT ITSELF IN WORST POSSIBLE POSITION BY AUTHORIZING OPIUM PRODUCTION IN SIX PROVINCES PLUS TWO DISTRICTS OF A SEVENTH. IN OTHER WORDS GOT HAD REVERTED NOT TO SMALLER AREAIN WHICH PRODUCTION PERMITTED AT TIME BAN IMPOSED BUT RATHER TO MUCH LARGER AREA AUTHORIZED IN 1971, WHEN, AS TURKISH GOVT ITSELF ADMITTED, THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT LEAKAGE FROM LICIT PRODUCTION TO ILLICIT TRAFFIC.
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FURTHERMORE, JULY 1 DECREE PLACED EMPHASIS ON GIVING LICENSES AS MATTER OF PRIORITY TO FARMERS OVER SCATTERED AREA WHOSE SUBMARGINAL LAND CAN PRODUCE ONLY POPPIES AND WHO THEREFORE WOULD BE MOST TEMPTED BY ILLICIT TRAFFICKERS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TURKEY WOULD INEVITABLY AGAIN BECOME CENTER OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC.

7. REUTER SAIDHE ACCEPTED THATGOT HAD SOVEREIGN RIGHT

TO LIFT BAN AND HE DIDNOT WANT DISCUSS MOTIVATION FOR ACTION WHICH GOVT TOOK. HE DID WISH, HOWEVER, EXPRESS VIEW THAT GOT HAD TAKEN TOO BIG A STEP BACKWARDS. PROPER COURSE WOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST TO DECIDE ON DETAILED CONTROL MEASURES AND TO ESTABLISH CONTROL APPARATUS. ONCE THIS DONE, SOWING MIGHT HAVE BEEN PERMITTED, DEFINITELY NOT THIS FALL BUT POSSIBLE NEXT SPRING, AND EVEN THEN IN ONLY ONE PROVINCE AND ON VERY LIMITED SCALE FOR PURPOSE OF TESTING CONTROL MEASURE'S EFFECTIVENESS. GOT WAS PROCEEDING ON BASIS OF CONTROLS DECIDED ON IN 1971 WHICH IN FACT HAD NEVER BEEN ADEQUATELY TESTED. REUTER THOUGHT THAT WHEN INCB MEETS IT WILL HAVE TO CRITICIZE GOT DECISION.

8. IN RESPONSE KIRCA SAID THAT SINCE DECREE ALREADY PUBLISHED IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REDUCE NUMBER OF OPIUM PRODUCING PROVINCES. HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE WILLING, IF REUTER AGREED, TO RECOMMEND IN REUTER'S NAME THAT GOT REDUCE AREA OF CULTIVATION TO MAXIMUM EXTENT. REUTER REPLIED THIS WOULD BE STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION BUT COULD ONLY BE ONE OF SEVERAL MEASURES THAT WOULD HAVE BE TAKEN IF TURKEY WERE NOT AGAIN TO BECOME A CENTER OF ILLICIT TRAFFIC. KIRCA THEN ASKED WHETHER BOARD WOULD SUPPORT ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED TO TURKEY TO ESTABLISH CONTROLS. REUTER SAID HE COULDN'T SPEAK FOR BOARD. HOWEVER, IF HE WERE CONSULTED ABOUT SUCH STEP HE WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT HE HAS GREATEST RESERVATION ABOUT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE SINCE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY CONTROLS CAN PROVE EFFECTIVE IN CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH GOT DECIDED RESUME PRODUCTION. IN FACT HIS REPLY WOULD HAVE BE NEGATIVE.

9. MISOFF LEARNED FROM MICUTA (DND) THAT UNFDAC/DND RECEIVED LETTER DATED JULY 8 FROM AMBASSADOR KIRCA REQUESTING UN PROVIDE EXPERT IN CONTROL FIELD. REPLY SENT JULY 10 IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MARTENS' NAME STATING THAT UNFDAC/DND ARE PREPARED PROVIDE SERVICES OF EXPERT FOR "SHORT-TERM EXPLORATORY VISIT". MICUTA ADDED THAT INTENTION IS TO SEND DND'S ILLICIT TRAFFIC SPECIALIST MANBY TO TURKEY FIRST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST. IN RESPONSE MISOFF'S QUERY, MICUTA SAID TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MANBY NOT YET WORKED OUT BUT WOULD BE SUCH AS TO PERMIT RECOMMENDATION THAT PRODUCTION AREA BE SEVERELY CURTAILED. MICUTA ALSO SAID HE CONSIDERED IT WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL FOR MANBY TO BE BRIEFED INFORMALLY BY AMERICAN EXPERT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CONTROL PROBLEMS IN TURKEY. ADDED HE THOUGHT THIS BRIEFING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA IN U.S. MISSION.

10. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVISING ASAP WHETHER U.S. EXPERT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE BRIEF MANBY IN

GENEVA FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST. WE PROPOSE WE SHOULD
OURSELVES INFORMALLY MAKE SUGGESTIONS AS TO MANBY'S TERMS
OF REFERENCE TO ENSURE THAT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS CAN
ENVISAGE PROPOSAL THAT TURKEY REDUCE CULTIVATION AREA TO MINIMUM
AND THAT ACREAGE BE AGGREGATED IN OPEN AREAS TO FACILITATE
CONTROL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ASAP RE WASH'S
VIEWS ON MANBY'S TERMS OF REFERENCE.

11. WASH SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT DITTERT REQUESTS INFO ASAP
RE HOW USG INTENDS PROCEED ON TURKISH MATTER. SAYS HE
WISHES HAVE THIS INFO IN HAND BEFORE MAKING ANY FURTHER
SUGGESTIONS TO BOARD ON ADDITIONAL STEPS IT MIGHT TAKE. DALE
UNQTE INGERSOLL

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